

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:EA:MR. HEAVNER

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APPROVED BY:THE SECRETARY

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TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199720

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SN (KISSINGER, HENRY) (RAJARATNAM, ROGER)

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE BILATERAL

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION: FM RAJARATNAM (SINGAPORE)

OCTOBER 5, 1973

35A WALDORF ASTORIA

1. PARTICIPANTS: SINGAPORE: FM RAJARATNAM
AMB MONTEIRO

US: THE SECRETARY
MR. HUMMEL
MR. STEARMAN
MR. HEAVNER

2. SECRETARY MET WITH FONMIN ROGER RAJARATNAM
OCTOBER 5 TO DISCUSS SEA SITUATION. SECRETARY ASKED IF PRIME
MINISTER LEE STILL AS CONCERNED ABOUT THAILAND AND CAMBODIA AS HE
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WAS DURING THEIR LAST MEETING IN APRIL. ROGER RAJARATNAM SAID
LEE IS STILL WORRIED ABOUT SITUATION, SEES VIETNAM AS KEY
TO PEACE IN SEA BUT IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT
CAMBODIA AND THAILAND. QUESTION OF SIHANOUK'S RETURN

NOT IMPORTANT BUT IF LON NOL GOVERNMENT COLLAPSES, WITH
MILITARY VICTORY BY KHMER ROUGE, OUTCOME LIKELY
BE VERY BAD.

3. SECRETARY SAID OUR STRATEGY IS TO SUPPORT LON NOL
GOVERNMENT AND GIVE IT OPPORTUNITY TRANSFORM ITSELF IN
AN ORDERLY FASHION. WE SEEK TO SAVE PHNOM PENH
GOVERNMENT OR PROLONG IT AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

4. IN REGARD THAILAND, SECRETARY SAID WE INTEND HOLD
TROOP LEVELS THERE AT LEAST AS HIGH AS THOSE OF MARCH
1972. ROGER RAJARATNAM SAID US PRESENCE IS THE
IMPORTANT THING; NUMBERS DO NOT MATTER.

5. SECRETARY ALSO EXPRESSED HIS HIGH REGARD FOR
PRIME MINISTER LEE AS ONE OF FEW WORLD LEADERS WHO
UNDERSTANDS DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TACTICAL AND STRATEGIC
CONSIDERATIONS. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

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